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year of our biennium. If we limit spending to 2.5 percent increase in those out years, we pick up \$70 million on the status sheet. That makes a considerable difference, it puts us, in essence, in a flush position. And that's before we look at I think we focused a lot, in our previous the revenue side discussions, on trying to justify a reduction in rates, on how well we can look into the future on what will happen with revenues. I tend to think that if we managed the expenditure side better, then we will be able to continue as we have, in the position that we're in right now, very fiscally sound state. But the revenue in those out years are projected at 5.7 percent in the first year, and 5.1 percent in the second year. actual revenue growth for fiscal year 1997 was 8.5 percent, 3 percent more than what we're projecting in the out years. the out years are not, you know, a wild-haired projection. We're finishing up this year, couple months away from this year, and we're...Forecasting Board has us at 7 percent. aren't going to change that much in the next few months. what we are going to...what we may end up with here is dueling status sheets, and so it really boils down to how one wants to look at the budget. Do we look at what's the appropriate amount of money to spend, and then adjust our rates accordingly, or do we do what it appears historically has been the pattern, that's see how much revenue is going to come in under our current rate structure, and spend near that amount? thing that hasn't been mentioned is the impact of an additional \$170 million swirling through our state's economy over the course of the next two years as a result of this sales tax There's been no provisions made for that. So what reduction. it boils down to is judgment, what's one's judgment on what is likely to occur, and can this Legislature react in a responsible fashion regardless of what it...what that scenario presents Now, relative to the cash reserve account, and I hope that I can get your attention, if I don't have it, for a minute right now, because that cash reserve amount does have a very valuable purpose. But my question would be this,...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: ...up until fiscal year 1998, right now, there's been only one year where the state, since 1983, had a cash reserve balance at the end of more than \$50 million. What